



Substitute Senate Bill No. 796

Public Act No. 17-202

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF RESPECTFUL AND PERSON-FIRST LANGUAGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 1-25 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The forms of oaths shall be as follows, to wit:

FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, EXECUTIVE

AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut, so long as you continue a citizen thereof; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of to the best of your abilities; so help you God.

FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC.

You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of notary public to the best of

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your abilities; so help you God.

FOR ELECTORS.

You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will be true and faithful to the constitutions and governments of the State of Connecticut and the United States of America; that the statements made in your application for admission as an elector are true and complete; and that your privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a felony; so help you God.

FOR ATTORNEYS.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will do nothing dishonest, and will not knowingly allow anything dishonest to be done in court, and that you will inform the court of any dishonesty of which you have knowledge; that you will not knowingly maintain or assist in maintaining any cause of action that is false or unlawful; that you will not obstruct any cause of action for personal gain or malice; but that you will exercise the office of attorney, in any court in which you may practice, according to the best of your learning and judgment, faithfully, to both your client and the court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR PETIT JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will, without respect of any persons or favor of any person, decide this case between the state of Connecticut and the defendant (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case until you have been discharged by

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the court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that, if you become a member of the jury for this case, you will, without respect of any persons or favor of any person, decide this case between the state of Connecticut and the defendant (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you about this case until you have been discharged by the court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will decide this case between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

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You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that, if you become a member of the jury for this case, you will decide this case between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

VOIR DIRE.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will answer truthfully all questions that you are asked, none of which will be about the merits of the case for which the jury is being selected; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR WITNESSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that the evidence you shall give concerning this case shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR INVESTIGATORY GRAND JURY WITNESSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that the evidence you shall give concerning this investigation into the commission of a crime or crimes, shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR WITNESSES TWELVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

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You promise that you will tell the truth.

FOR AN INTERPRETER IN A CRIMINAL CASE.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will interpret accurately the information (or indictment) that charges the accused with a crime and all questions that the accused may be asked under the direction of the court in a language the accused can understand and speak; that you will interpret accurately the pleas of the accused to the information (or indictment) and the answers of the accused to the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR AN INTERPRETER IN COURT.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will interpret accurately the oath to be administered to the witness and all questions that the witness may be asked under direction of the court in a language the witness can understand and speak; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the witness to the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR AN INTERPRETER FOR A [DEAF OR HEARING IMPAIRED]

JUROR WHO IS DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will interpret accurately to a [deaf or hearing impaired] juror who is deaf or hard of hearing the juror orientation program, any oath to be administered to the juror, all testimony and other relevant conversation, and all questions that the juror may be

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asked under the direction of the court; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the juror to the court in English; that you will not participate in any manner in the deliberations of the jury other than making an accurate interpretation of the remarks of the jurors during deliberations; that you will make all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; and that you will not communicate with anyone outside the jury concerning the business or matters before the jury; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR ASSESSORS, TO SUBSCRIBE UPON ABSTRACT.

I, ..., assessor of the town of ..., do solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that I believe that all the lists, and the abstract of said town for the year 20.., are made up and perfected according to law; so help me God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR PLAINTIFF, WHEN INDIFFERENT PERSON IS

AUTHORIZED TO SERVE WRIT.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you believe the plaintiff is (or plaintiffs are) in danger of losing the debt (damage or other thing) in this writ, unless an indifferent person is authorized to immediately serve this writ; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR MEMBERS OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will truly try and determine, according to the evidence given in court, the matters depending between this state and the officer (or officers) now to be tried; that you will not divulge the sentence of the court until the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to law; neither will you, at any time, disclose the vote or opinion of any member of the court, unless required by due course of law; so help you

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God.

FOR THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will not, at any time whatever, disclose the vote or opinion of any member of any court-martial in which you may be called to act, unless required by due course of law, nor divulge the sentence of any such court, unless the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to law; and that you will faithfully and impartially do the duty of judge-advocate, according to your best ability; so help you God.

FOR OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO SERVE IN ANY POLLING

PLACE IN ANY ELECTION OR PRIMARY.

You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as, to the best of your ability; and that you will serve in this election or primary as the case may be, as an official, completely impartial with respect to any candidate or any political party; so help you God.

FOR ALL OTHER PERSONS OF WHOM AN OATH IS REQUIRED.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as to the best of your abilities; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

Sec. 2. Section 4a-25a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Commissioner of Administrative Services is authorized to enter into a loss portfolio arrangement program for the purpose of transferring a group of workers' compensation claims to an independent third party. Claims that qualify for transfer to such

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program shall be approved state employees' claims which require payment of future indemnity benefits and payment of medical benefits to certain [disabled] workers with disabilities. Such program shall provide that the independent third party shall, as part of the assumption of liability, become responsible for the management and administration of the transferred liability and shall require such party to administer the individual workers' compensation claims in accordance with the Connecticut general statutes.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 4b-31 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) "Human services" means adoption and foster care services; advocacy services; alcohol and drug abuse services; case management services; school readiness programs; Head Start programs; family resource centers; child and adult day care; community-based services; community organization services; counseling, guidance and appraisal services; day treatment services; employment, compensatory education, adult education and training; energy payment assistance; family planning services; health services; home care, management and maintenance services; housing services; human resource development services; income assistance; information and referral services; mental health services; intellectual disability services; nutrition services; parole supervision; protective services; residential treatment services; services to [the blind, the deaf, the developmentally disabled, the disabled, the hearing impaired, the visually impaired, the handicapped] persons who are blind or visually impaired, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, persons with developmental disabilities, persons with disabilities, the non-English-speaking and the poor; social development services; social services; special transportation services; and planning, management and evaluation activities related to the services listed in this section.

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Sec. 4. Subsection (j) of section 6-38b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(j) The commission shall adopt rules as it deems necessary for conduct of its internal affairs, including, but not limited to, rules that provide for: (1) The provision of timely, consistent and reliable access to a state marshal for persons applying for a restraining order under section 46b-15; (2) the provision of services to persons with limited English proficiency; (3) the provision of services to persons who are deaf or [hearing impaired] hard of hearing; and (4) service of process that is a photographic copy, micrographic copy or other electronic image of an original document that clearly and accurately copies such original document. The commission shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 for the application and investigation requirements for filling vacancies in the position of state marshal.

Sec. 5. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 8-37qqq of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(B) A comprehensive assessment of current and future needs for rental assistance under section 8-119kk for housing projects for [the elderly and disabled] persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities, in consultation with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority;

Sec. 6. Section 8-119f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Commissioner of Housing shall design, implement, operate and monitor a program of congregate housing. For the purpose of this program, the Commissioner of Housing shall consult with the

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Commissioner on Aging for the provision of services for [the physically disabled] persons with physical disabilities in order to comply with the requirements of section 29-271.

Sec. 7. Section 8-119ll of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

Annually, the Department of Housing in consultation with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall conduct a comprehensive assessment of current and future needs for rental assistance under section 8-119kk for housing projects for [the state's] elderly persons and [disabled] persons with disabilities in this state. Such analyses shall be incorporated into the report required pursuant to section 8-37qqq, as amended by this act.

Sec. 8. Subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection (a) of section 8-169c of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(4) A description of a program designed to (A) eliminate or prevent slums, blight and deterioration where such conditions or needs exist; (B) provide improved community facilities and public improvements, including the provision of supporting health, social and similar services where necessary and appropriate; and in a manner to insure fully the opportunity for participation by, and benefits to, [the physically disabled] persons with physical disabilities; and (C) improved conditions for low and moderate income persons residing in or expected to reside in the community and foster neighborhood development in order to induce higher income persons to remain in, or return to, the community;

(5) A description of a housing assistance plan which (A) accurately describes the conditions of the housing stock within the community, [and] assesses the housing assistance needs of low and moderate

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income persons, including elderly [and handicapped persons] persons, persons with disabilities, large families and persons displaced or to be displaced residing in or expected to reside in the community, and identifies housing stock which is in a deteriorated condition; (B) specifies a realistic goal during the program period for the number of dwelling units or persons to be assisted, including (i) the relative proportion of new, rehabilitated and existing dwelling units, (ii) the size and types of housing projects and assistance best suited to the needs of the low and moderate income families and persons and (iii), in the case of subsidized rehabilitation, adequate provisions to assure that a preponderance of persons assisted are of low and moderate income, and (C) indicates the general locations of proposed housing for low and moderate income families and persons with the objective of (i) furthering the revitalization of the community, including the restoration and rehabilitation of stable neighborhoods to the maximum extent possible, and the reclamation of the housing stock where feasible through the use of a broad range of techniques for housing restoration by local government, the private sector or community organizations, including provision of a reasonable opportunity for tenants displaced as a result of such activities to relocate in their immediate neighborhood, (ii) promoting greater choice of housing opportunities and avoiding undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons and (iii) assuring the availability of public facilities and services adequate to serve proposed housing projects.

Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of section 8-210 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(d) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation for

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state financial assistance for a project of renovation of any child care center receiving assistance under this section, to make such center accessible to [the physically disabled] persons with physical disabilities, in the form of a state grant-in-aid equal to (1) the total net cost of the project, as approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, or (2) the total amount by which the net cost of the project, as approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, exceeds the federal grant-in-aid thereof.

Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 8-216b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(c) Any grant-in-aid awarded to a housing site development agency for a housing and community development project under this section shall be used for one or more of the following activities: (1) Acquisition of real property for housing or community facilities; (2) rehabilitation of buildings for use as housing or community facilities; (3) improvements supporting the development of low and moderate housing, including site assemblage and preparation, site and public improvements and preconstruction costs; (4) construction, rehabilitation or renovation of community facilities or infrastructure supporting community facilities, including neighborhood centers, centers for [the handicapped] persons with disabilities, senior centers, historic properties, public utilities, streets, street lighting, parking facilities, sewer and drainage facilities, parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities; (5) removal of architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of [elderly and handicapped persons] persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities; (6) relocation payments and assistance to individuals and families; (7) building, health and housing code enforcement activities; and (8) reasonable administrative costs incurred by the grantee in connection with the project. A redevelopment agency acting as a housing site development

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agency shall have the power to condemn real property, in accordance with the procedures set forth in sections 8-129 to 8-133, inclusive, for the purpose of a housing and community development project.

Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 8-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) The Commissioner of Housing shall develop a program of loans to homeowners for costs incurred in the repair, replacement or enlargement of subsurface sewage disposal systems that have been determined to be a nuisance in accordance with the Public Health Code. As used in this section, "costs" include technical and installation expenses and stabilization of topsoil but does not include landscaping. Any loan provided pursuant to this section shall bear interest at a rate to be determined in accordance with subsection (t) of section 3-20. Repayment of any loan made to a person [who is handicapped or] with physical disability or a person sixty-two years of age or older may be deferred until such person transfers the property.

Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 9-168d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) On or before July 1, 1980, each polling place shall be made accessible to and usable by [physically disabled] persons with physical disabilities by complying with the following standards of accessibility: (1) Doors, entrances, and exits used to gain access to or egress from the polling place shall have a minimum width of thirty-one inches; (2) temporary ramps shall be made available or curb cuts provided where necessary for accessibility to the entrance; (3) any stairs necessarily used to enter the polling place shall have a temporary handrail and ramp; (4) in the polling place, no barrier shall impede the path of [the physically disabled] a person with physical disability to the voting

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booth.

Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil identified as deaf or [hearing impaired] hard of hearing may request in writing that such pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

Sec. 14. Subdivision (9) of section 10-16o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(9) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs available to children who [are not disabled] do not have disabilities; and

Sec. 15. Subdivision (44) of subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(44) The Governor shall proclaim the third week in May of each year to be ["A Week to Remember Persons who are Disabled or Shut-in"] A Week to Remember Persons who have a Disability or are Shut-in. Suitable exercises shall be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the observance of the week.

Sec. 16. Subsection (d) of section 10-73a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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(d) The board of education of any providing school district may waive fees of any kind to [a handicapped adult] an adult with a disability, as defined by the State Board of Education, or to a person sixty-two years of age or older registered for, or enrolled in, adult programs, classes or activities permitted by subparagraph (B) of subsection (a) of section 10-69, provided such board may charge a cooperating school district (1) a registration fee for any [handicapped] adult with a disability or any person sixty-two years of age or older who is a resident of such cooperating district and who is enrolled, through cooperative arrangements approved by the State Board of Education, in any adult class or program of adult classes maintained by such providing school district and required under section 10-69; and (2) a charge for any books or materials furnished to any such person for use in any adult class or activity or program of adult classes or activities required under section 10-69 or permitted by subparagraph (B) of subsection (a) of section 10-69.

Sec. 17. Section 10-76jj of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The individualized education program for any child identified as deaf or [hearing impaired] hard of hearing shall include a language and communication plan developed by the planning and placement team for such child. Such language and communication plan shall address: (1) The primary language or mode of communication chosen for the child, (2) opportunities for direct communication with peers and professional personnel in the primary language or mode of communication for the child, (3) educational options available to the child, (4) the qualifications of teachers and other professional personnel administering such plan for the child, including such teacher's or personnel's proficiency in the primary language or mode of communication for the child, (5) the accessibility of academic instruction, school services and extracurricular activities to the child,

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(6) assistive devices and services for the child, and (7) communication and physical environment accommodations for the child.

Sec. 18. Subsection (d) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(d) (1) On and after July 1, 2016, in order to be eligible to obtain an initial educator certificate, each person shall be required to complete (A) a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than thirty-six hours, which shall include an understanding of the growth and development of exceptional children, including [handicapped and] children with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom, and (B) a course or courses of study in special education relating to instruction on classroom techniques in reading, differentiated instruction, social-emotional learning, cultural competencies and assistive technology. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any person who has been issued an initial educator certificate prior to July 1, 2016.

(2) On and after July 1, 2016, in order to be eligible to obtain a provisional educator certificate, each person shall be required to complete a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than thirty-six hours, which shall include an understanding of the growth and development of exceptional children, including [handicapped and] children with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary, each applicant for such certificates who has met all

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requirements for certification except the completion of the course in special education shall be entitled to a certificate (A) for a period not to exceed one year, provided the applicant completed a teacher preparation program either in the state prior to July 1, 1987, or outside the state, or completed the necessary combination of professional experience or coursework as required by the State Board of Education or (B) for a period not to exceed two years if the applicant applies for certification in an area for which a bachelor's degree is not required.

Sec. 19. Subsection (g) of section 10a-157a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(g) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2014, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, in consultation with Connecticut's P-20 Council, shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education regarding (1) its recommendations concerning the successful transition of adults returning to or first enrolling in a higher education program at a public institution of higher education after spending time in the workforce, and (2) the application of the provisions of sections 10a-157a to 10a-157c, inclusive, to each higher education program for [hearing impaired or deaf] students who are deaf or hard of hearing that is offered by a public institution of higher education.

Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such

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teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1) the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth and development of exceptional children, including [handicapped and] children with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, including, but not limited to, children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom, including, but not limited to, implementation of student individualized education programs, (4) school violence prevention, conflict resolution, the prevention of and response to youth suicide and the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that those boards of education that implement any evidence-based model approach that is approved by the Department of Education and is consistent with subsection (d) of section 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training on the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, (5) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer and other information technology as applied to student learning and classroom instruction, communications and data management, (7) the teaching of the language arts, reading and reading readiness for teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, (8) second language acquisition in districts required to provide a program of bilingual

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education pursuant to section 10-17f, (9) the requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, (10) the teacher evaluation and support program adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-151b, (11) the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d, and (12) cultural competency consistent with the training in cultural competency described in subsection (i) of section 10-145a. Each local and regional board of education may allow any paraprofessional or noncertified employee to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training program provided pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (A) Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (B) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American history; (F) personal financial management; (G) domestic violence and teen dating violence; (H) mental health first aid training; (I) trauma-informed practices for the school setting to enable teachers, administrators and pupil personnel to more adequately respond to students with mental, emotional or behavioral health needs; (J) second language acquisition, including, but not limited to, language development and culturally responsive pedagogy; and (K) topics approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part of in-service training programs pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 10-292 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) Upon receipt by the Commissioner of Administrative Services of the final plans for any phase of a school building project as provided in section 10-291, said commissioner shall promptly review such plans

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and check them to the extent appropriate for the phase of development or construction for which final plans have been submitted to determine whether they conform with the requirements of the Fire Safety Code, the Department of Public Health, the life-cycle cost analysis approved by the Commissioner of Administrative Services, the State Building Code and the state and federal standards for design and construction of public buildings to meet the needs of [disabled] persons with disabilities, and if acceptable a final written approval of such phase shall be sent to the town or regional board of education and the school building committee. No phase of a school building project, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) or (d) of this section, shall go out for bidding purposes prior to such written approval.

Sec. 22. Section 10-293 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) There is established [a Board of Education and Services for the Blind] an Advisory Board for Persons Who are Blind or Visually Impaired that shall serve as an advisor to the Department of Rehabilitation Services in fulfilling its responsibilities in providing services to [the blind and] persons who are blind or visually impaired in the state.

(b) (1) The [Board of Education and Services for the Blind] Advisory Board for Persons Who are Blind or Visually Impaired shall consist of members appointed as follows: Six appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives and all shall be residents of the state. The Commissioner of Social Services shall be [a member, ex officio] an ex-officio member. One of the members appointed by the Governor shall

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be the parent of a child who receives services provided by the [board] Department of Rehabilitation Services, and not less than two of the members appointed by the Governor shall be [blind] persons who are blind.

(2) Three members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years. Three members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of two years. The three members appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall serve a term of four years. The three members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall serve a term of two years. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a term of four years, commencing on January fourth of the year of the appointment.

(3) One of the members appointed by the Governor shall be designated by the Governor as the chairperson of the advisory board. The advisory board shall meet annually in the month of September and may meet at any other time upon the call of its chairperson; and the chairperson shall call a meeting at the request of two or more members. Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. A majority of the members in office shall constitute a quorum. The appointing authority may, for reasonable cause, remove any appointed member and appoint another person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. Any vacancy in the [Board of Education and Services for the Blind] advisory board shall be filled by the appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term.

Sec. 23. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 2c-2h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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(3) [Board of Education and Services for the Blind] Advisory Board for Persons Who are Blind or Visually Impaired, established under section 10-293, as amended by this act;

Sec. 24. Subsection (b) of section 5-175a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) Any member of the state employees retirement system who operated vending stands under permits held by the State Board of Education and Services for the Blind pursuant to section 10-303, prior to October 1, 1971, may obtain credit for such period or periods of service for retirement purposes, [;] provided [he] such member has been in the active full-time employment of the state continuously for twelve months next preceding [his] such member's written request to the Retirement Commission for such credit, and by making retirement contributions of five per cent of [his] such member's adjusted gross income arising out of the operation of such stands for each of such years with interest thereon at the rate of five per cent per year from the time of such operation to the date of payment, all as certified by the State Board of Education and Services for the Blind or, its successor agency, the Department of Rehabilitative Services. Such payments may be made in twelve equal monthly installments but such service credit shall not be granted unless payment of installments is completed.

Sec. 25. Section 5-177 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

Any person in the unclassified service employed full time by the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut, the State Board of Education, the [Board of Education and Services for the Blind] Department of Rehabilitative Services, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the American School for the Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, the Newington Children's Hospital, the Board of

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Trustees of the Connecticut State University System or the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges, as a teacher or administrator in a position directly involved in educational activities in any state-operated institution or the Board of Regents for Higher Education, who served prior to [his] such person's employment by the state in a full-time teaching, administrative or research position in an educational institution in or under the authority of a state department of education or a department of education for the blind in the United States approved by the Retirement Commission, or who was employed by such institution but served all or part of such service time in a foreign country, for which service [he] such person has received or will receive no retirement benefit or pension, may gain credit for such prior service, not to exceed ten years in the aggregate, by making retirement contributions for each year of such prior service equal to six per cent of [his] such person's annual rate of compensation when [he] such person first became a full-time employee of this state; provided such payment shall be made within one year of [his] such person's first full-time employment with the state, or before July 1, 1968, whichever is later, but for the Board of Higher Education and Technical Colleges, July 1, 1974. When a person who has gained credit for such prior service retires, not more than one year of such service may be counted for each two years of state service; provided, if such person has purchased more of such service than can be counted, refund on the amount paid on the extra years of service shall be made.

Sec. 26. Section 10-295 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) All residents of this state, regardless of age, who, because of blindness or impaired vision, require specialized vision-related educational programs, goods and services, on the signed recommendation of the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, shall be entitled to receive such instruction, programs, goods and services

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for such length of time as is deemed expedient by said commissioner. Upon the petition of any parent or guardian of a [blind child or a child with impaired vision] child who is blind or visually impaired, a local board of education may provide such instruction within the town or it may provide for such instruction by agreement with other towns as provided in subsection (d) of section 10-76d. All educational privileges prescribed in part V of chapter 164, not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, shall apply to the pupils covered by this subsection.

(b) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall expend funds for the services made available pursuant to subsection (a) of this section from the educational aid for [blind and visually handicapped] children who are blind or visually impaired account in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may adopt, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, such regulations as the commissioner deems necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this subsection.

(1) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall provide, upon written request from any interested school district, the services of teachers [of the visually impaired] who instruct students who are visually impaired, based on the levels established in the individualized education or service plan. The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall also make available resources, including, but not limited to, the [Braille] braille and large print library, to all teachers of public and nonpublic school children. The commissioner may also provide vision-related professional development and training to all school districts and cover the actual cost for paraprofessionals from school districts to participate in agency-sponsored [Braille] braille training programs. The commissioner shall utilize education consultant positions, funded by moneys appropriated from the General Fund, to supplement new staffing that will be made available through the educational aid for

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[the blind and visually handicapped] children who are blind or visually impaired account, which shall be governed by formal written policies established by the commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may use funds appropriated to said account to provide specialized books, materials, equipment, supplies, adaptive technology services and devices, specialist examinations and aids, preschool programs and vision-related independent living services, excluding primary educational placement, for eligible children.

(3) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may, within available appropriations, employ certified teachers [of the visually impaired] who instruct students who are visually impaired in sufficient numbers to meet the requests for services received from school districts. In responding to such requests, the commissioner shall utilize a formula for determining the number of teachers needed to serve the school districts, crediting six points for each [Braille-learning] child learning braille and one point for each other child, with one full-time certified teacher [of the visually impaired] who instructs students who are visually impaired assigned for every twenty-five points credited. The commissioner shall exercise due diligence to employ the needed number of certified teachers [of the visually impaired] who instruct students who are visually impaired, but shall not be liable for lack of resources. Funds appropriated to said account may also be utilized to employ additional staff in numbers sufficient to provide compensatory skills, evaluations and training to children who are blind [and] or visually impaired, [children and] special assistants [to the blind] and other support staff necessary to ensure the efficient operation of service delivery. Not later than October first of each year, the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall determine the number of teachers needed based on the formula provided in this subdivision. Based on such determination, the Commissioner of

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Rehabilitation Services shall estimate the funding needed to pay such teachers' salaries and related expenses.

(4) In any fiscal year, when funds appropriated to cover the combined costs associated with providing the services set forth in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection are projected to be insufficient, the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may collect revenue from all school districts that have requested such services on a per student pro rata basis, in the sums necessary to cover the projected portion of these services for which there are insufficient appropriations.

(c) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may provide for the instruction of [the adult] adults who are blind in their homes, expending annually for this purpose such sums as the General Assembly may appropriate.

(d) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may expend up to ten thousand dollars per fiscal year per person twenty-one years of age or [over] older who is both blind or visually impaired and deaf, in addition to any other expenditures for such person, for the purpose of providing community inclusion services through specialized public and private entities from which such person can benefit. The commissioner may determine the criteria by which a person is eligible to receive specialized services and may adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "community inclusion services" means the assistance provided to persons with disabilities to enable them to connect with their peers without disabilities and with the community at large.

(e) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may, within available appropriations, purchase adaptive equipment for persons receiving services pursuant to this chapter.

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Sec. 27. Section 10-296 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may, within available appropriations, contract with public or private entities, individuals or private enterprises for the instruction of [the] persons who are blind.

Sec. 28. Section 10-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services is authorized to aid in securing employment for [legally blind] persons who are legally blind. Said commissioner may aid [legally blind] persons who are legally blind in such way as said commissioner deems expedient, expending for such purpose such sum as the General Assembly appropriates.

Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of section 10-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall prepare and maintain a register of [the] persons who are blind in this state which shall describe their condition, cause of blindness and capacity for education and rehabilitative training. The commissioner may register cases of persons [whose eyesight is seriously defective and] who are liable to become visually [disabled] impaired or blind, and may take such measures in cooperation with other authorities as the commissioner deems advisable for the prevention of blindness or conservation of eyesight and, in appropriate cases, for the education of children and for the vocational guidance of adults [having seriously defective sight but who are not blind] whose eyesight approaches visual impairment or blindness. The commissioner shall establish criteria for low vision care and maintain a list of ophthalmologists and optometrists that are exclusively authorized to receive agency funds

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through established and existing state fee schedules for the delivery of specifically defined low vision services that increase the capacity of eligible recipients of such services to maximize the use of their remaining vision.

Sec. 30. Section 10-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

Each physician, advanced practice registered nurse and optometrist shall report in writing to the Department of Rehabilitation Services [within thirty days each blind person coming] not later than thirty days after a person who is blind comes under his or her private or institutional care within this state. The report of such [blind] person shall include the name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, date of diagnosis of blindness and degree of vision. Such reports shall not be open to public inspection.

Sec. 31. Section 10-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Department of Rehabilitation Services may maintain a vocational rehabilitation program as authorized under the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC 791 et seq., for the purpose of providing and coordinating the full scope of necessary services to assist [legally blind recipients of] persons who are legally blind and who receive services from the department to prepare for, enter into and maintain employment consistent with the purposes of said act.

Sec. 32. Section 10-316a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The State Board of Education shall be empowered to appoint a consultant qualified in the education of [hearing-impaired and deaf] children who are deaf or hard of hearing and said board shall fix and pay such consultant's compensation.

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Sec. 33. Section 12-65g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The legislative body of any municipality may, by ordinance, authorize such municipality to enter into a written agreement with an owner of any real property who agrees to improve, rehabilitate or renovate any building thereon to meet the standards of design and construction of the State Building Code to accommodate [physically disabled] persons with physical disabilities, as set forth in article 512 of the State Building Code, or any subsequent corresponding section of the State Building Code, as from time to time amended, to fix the assessment on such property as of the date of the agreement for a period of not longer than five years and to defer any increase in assessment attributable to such improvement, rehabilitation or renovation during such period, provided (1) the agreement shall be approved by the local building official and (2) such improvement, rehabilitation or renovation shall be completed not later than three years from the date of the agreement and, upon completion, shall be subject to inspection and certification by such local building official as being in conformance with the applicable provisions of said code.

Sec. 34. Subparagraph (B) of subdivision (7) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(B) On and after July 1, 1967, housing subsidized, in whole or in part, by federal, state or local government and housing for persons or families of low and moderate income shall not constitute a charitable purpose under this section. As used in this subdivision, "housing" shall not include real property used for temporary housing belonging to, or held in trust for, any corporation organized exclusively for charitable purposes and exempt from taxation for federal income tax purposes, the primary use of which property is one or more of the following: (i) An orphanage; (ii) a drug or alcohol treatment or rehabilitation facility;

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(iii) housing for [homeless individuals, mentally or physically handicapped individuals or] persons who are homeless, persons with a mental health disorder, persons with intellectual or physical disability [, or for] or victims of domestic violence; (iv) housing for ex-offenders or for individuals participating in a program sponsored by the state Department of Correction or Judicial Branch; and (v) short-term housing operated by a charitable organization where the average length of stay is less than six months. The operation of such housing, including the receipt of any rental payments, by such charitable organization shall be deemed to be an exclusively charitable purpose;

Sec. 35. Subdivision (19) of section 12-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(19) Sales of and the storage, use or other consumption of (A) oxygen, blood or blood plasma when sold for medical use in humans or animals; (B) artificial devices individually designed, constructed or altered solely for the use of a particular [handicapped] person with physical disability so as to become a brace, support, supplement, correction or substitute for the bodily structure, including the extremities of the individual, and repair or replacement parts and repair services rendered to property described in this subparagraph; (C) artificial limbs, artificial eyes and other equipment worn as a correction or substitute for any functioning portion of the body, custom-made wigs or hairpieces for persons with medically diagnosed total and permanent hair loss as a result of disease or the treatment of disease, artificial hearing aids when designed to be worn on the person of the owner or user, closed circuit television equipment used as a reading aid by persons who are visually impaired and repair or replacement parts and repair services rendered to property described in this subparagraph; (D) canes, crutches, walkers, wheel chairs and inclined stairway chairlifts for the use of [invalids and handicapped

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persons] any person with physical disability, and repair or replacement parts and repair services to property described in this subparagraph; (E) any equipment used in support of or to supply vital life functions, including oxygen supply equipment used for humans or animals, kidney dialysis machines and any other such device used in necessary support of vital life functions, and apnea monitors, and repair or replacement parts and repair services rendered to property described in this subparagraph; and (F) support hose that is specially designed to aid in the circulation of blood and is purchased by a person who has a medical need for such hose. Repair or replacement parts are exempt whether purchased separately or in conjunction with the item for which they are intended, and whether such parts continue the original function or enhance the functionality of such item. As used in this subdivision, "repair services" means services that are described in subparagraph (Q) or (CC) of subdivision (37) of subsection (a) of section 12-407.

Sec. 36. Subdivision (46) of section 12-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(46) Sales of home delivered meals to [elderly, disabled and other homebound] persons who are sixty years of age or older, have physical disabilities or are otherwise homebound.

Sec. 37. Subsection (c) of section 12-455a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(c) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle propelled or drawn by any power other than muscular, except aircraft, motorboats, road rollers, baggage trucks used about railroad stations, electric battery-operated wheel chairs when operated by [physically handicapped] persons with physical disabilities at speeds not exceeding fifteen miles per hour,

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agricultural tractors, farm implements and such vehicles as run only upon rails or tracks;

Sec. 38. Section 12-635 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a credit against any tax due under the provisions of chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or 212: (1) In an amount not to exceed one hundred per cent of the total cash amount invested during the taxable year by the business firm in programs operated or created pursuant to proposals approved pursuant to section 12-632 for energy conservation projects directed toward properties occupied by persons, at least seventy-five per cent of whom are at an income level not exceeding one hundred fifty per cent of the poverty level for the year next preceding the year during which such tax credit is to be granted; (2) in an amount equal to one hundred per cent of the total cash amount invested during the taxable year by the business firm in programs operated or created pursuant to proposals approved pursuant to section 12-632 for energy conservation projects at properties owned or occupied by charitable corporations, foundations, trusts or other entities as determined under regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter; (3) in an amount equal to one hundred per cent of the total cash amount invested during the taxable year by the business firm in a comprehensive college access loan forgiveness program located in an "educational reform district" as defined in section 10-262u, that has established minimum eligibility criteria including, but not limited to, years of enrollment in the educational reform district, grade point average, attendance record and loan forgiveness prerequisite; or (4) in an amount not to exceed sixty per cent of the total cash amount invested during the taxable year by the business firm (A) in employment and training programs directed at youths, at least seventy-five per cent of whom are at an income level not exceeding one hundred fifty per cent of the poverty

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level for the year next preceding the year during which such tax credit is to be granted; (B) in employment and training programs directed at [handicapped persons as determined under regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter] persons with physical disabilities; (C) in employment and training programs for unemployed workers who are fifty years of age or older; (D) in education and employment training programs for recipients in the temporary family assistance program; or (E) in child care services. Any other program which serves persons at least seventy-five per cent of whom are at an income level not exceeding one hundred fifty per cent of the poverty level for the year next preceding the year during which such tax credit is to be granted and which meets the standards for eligibility under this chapter shall be eligible for a tax credit under this section in an amount equal to sixty per cent of the total cash invested by the business firm in such program.

Sec. 39. Section 13b-4a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Commissioner of Transportation may, at the request of any nonprofit corporation or association providing transportation services to [the elderly or handicapped] persons who are elderly or persons with disabilities in this state, certify, to the extent necessary for such corporation or association to apply for and receive federal funds for the purchase and maintenance of buses, vans and [radiodispatch] radio dispatch equipment under the provisions of the Urban Mass Transportation Act, that such nonprofit corporation or association is providing transportation services for [the elderly and handicapped] persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities in this state. Said commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to implement the purposes of this section.

Sec. 40. Section 13b-4c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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Notwithstanding any section of the general statutes to the contrary, no state agency, other than the Department of Transportation, shall expend funds in support of, or make state property available for use in, any transportation program for [the elderly or the handicapped] persons who are elderly or persons with disabilities unless the Commissioner of Transportation certifies, in writing, that: (1) The commissioner has reviewed and concurs in such expenditure or use; (2) such expenditure or use is consistent with the transportation policies of the state; and (3) such expenditure or use will not result in the unnecessary duplication of service. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any transportation service not available to the general public that is provided by any such program.

Sec. 41. Section 13b-105 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Department of Transportation may, with or without hearing, issue temporary and permanent livery permits to applicants for the express purpose of providing reasonable livery service to [handicapped persons and elderly persons] persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities on regular or irregular routes where the department finds no existing service or that the existing service is not adequate to properly serve the special needs of [elderly persons and handicapped persons] persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities. Temporary authority shall not extend over a period of more than sixty days. In determining the special needs of [the handicapped and elderly] persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities, the department may take into consideration the convenience and the physical and mental frailties of, and the care, safety and protection necessary for the best interest of, [the handicapped and elderly] persons who are elderly, persons with disabilities and the general public. No applicant shall be issued a temporary or permanent permit unless such applicant's motor vehicle

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meets the requirements of subsection (e) of section 14-100a. Applicants who were issued a temporary or permanent permit prior to October 1, 2007, shall comply with the requirements of subsection (e) of section 14-100a not later than October 1, 2007.

Sec. 42. Subdivision (54) of section 14-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(54) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle propelled or drawn by any nonmuscular power, except aircraft, motor boats, road rollers, baggage trucks used about railroad stations or other mass transit facilities, electric battery-operated wheel chairs when operated by [physically handicapped] persons with physical disabilities at speeds not exceeding fifteen miles per hour, golf carts operated on highways solely for the purpose of crossing from one part of the golf course to another, golf-cart-type vehicles operated on roads or highways on the grounds of state institutions by state employees, agricultural tractors, farm implements, such vehicles as run only on rails or tracks, self-propelled snow plows, snow blowers and lawn mowers, when used for the purposes for which they were designed and operated at speeds not exceeding four miles per hour, whether or not the operator rides on or walks behind such equipment, motor-driven cycles as defined in section 14-286, special mobile equipment as defined in section 14-165, mini-motorcycles, as defined in section 14-289j, and any other vehicle not suitable for operation on a highway;

Sec. 43. Subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(4) If any applicant or operator license holder has any health problem which might affect such person's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely, the commissioner may require the applicant or license

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holder to demonstrate personally or otherwise establish that, notwithstanding such problem, such applicant or license holder is a proper person to operate a motor vehicle, and the commissioner may further require a certificate of such applicant's condition, signed by a medical authority designated by the commissioner, which certificate shall in all cases be treated as confidential by the commissioner. A license, containing such limitation as the commissioner deems advisable, may be issued or renewed in any case, but nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the commissioner from refusing a license, either limited or unlimited, to any person or suspending a license of a person whom the commissioner determines to be incapable of safely operating a motor vehicle. Consistent with budgetary allotments, each motor vehicle operator's license issued to or renewed by a [deaf or hearing impaired] person who is deaf or hard of hearing shall, upon the request of such person, indicate such impairment. Such person shall submit a certificate stating such impairment, in such form as the commissioner may require and signed by a licensed health care practitioner.

Sec. 44. Section 14-275b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The provisions of section 14-275 and subsection (b) of section 14-275a shall not apply to any motor vehicle when used exclusively for the transportation of [mobility impaired] students under the age of twenty-one who have mobility impairments, provided such motor vehicle has been approved for such purpose by the commissioner.

Sec. 45. Subsection (a) of section 14-300i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) As used in subsection (b) of this section, (1) "vulnerable user" means: (A) A pedestrian; (B) a highway worker; (C) a person riding or

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driving an animal; (D) a person riding a bicycle; (E) a person using a skateboard, roller skates or in-line skates; (F) a person operating or riding on an agricultural tractor; (G) a person using a wheelchair or motorized chair; and (H) a [blind] person who is blind and such person's service animal, and (2) "public way" includes any state or other public highway, road, street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway or place, under the control of the state or any political subdivision of the state, dedicated, appropriated or opened to public travel or other use.

Sec. 46. Subsection (c) of section 14-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(c) No person shall park any vehicle in any place where parking is prohibited or park any vehicle for a longer period than that indicated as lawful by any sign erected and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, except: (1) A person operating an armored car vehicle may, while in the performance of such person's duties, park for a period not to exceed ten minutes in a place where parking is prohibited, provided such vehicle does not obstruct or impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, or (2) a vehicle displaying a special license plate or a removable windshield placard issued pursuant to section 14-253a or by authorities of other states or countries for the purpose of identifying vehicles permitted to utilize parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities which limit or impair their ability to walk or [blind] persons who are blind, may park in an area where parking is legally permissible, for an unlimited period of time without penalty, notwithstanding the period of time indicated as lawful by any (A) parking meter, or (B) sign erected and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 47. Subsection (a) of section 14-314c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

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October 1, 2017):

(a) The Office of the State Traffic Administration, on any state highway, or a local traffic authority, on any highway under its control, shall, upon receipt of an application on behalf of any person under the age of eighteen who is deaf, as certified by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse, erect one or more signs in the person's neighborhood to warn motor vehicle operators of the presence of [the deaf] such person.

Sec. 48. Section 14-325b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) Each retail dealer as defined in section 14-318 that offers self-service and full-service facilities for the sale of gasoline or motor fuel shall provide, at a self-service pump, upon request, refueling service to [a handicapped driver of a vehicle] an operator who has a disability and is operating a motor vehicle that bears a special license plate or a removable windshield placard issued pursuant to section 14-253a, at a price no greater than that which such dealer would charge the public to purchase gasoline or motor fuel without any refueling service.

(b) Each retail dealer that is required to provide refueling service to [a handicapped driver] an operator who has a disability pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall publicly display and maintain on or near each self-service pump a clearly legible sign informing the public that such retail dealer will provide refueling service to such [handicapped driver] operator upon request. Such sign shall be displayed in a location and manner that is clearly visible to [handicapped drivers] operators who have disabilities and shall contain instructions indicating how [a handicapped driver] an operator who has a disability may contact or notify the retail dealer or cashier, if applicable, [if the handicapped driver] that such operator requires refueling service.

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(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to dealers that sell gasoline or motor fuel and that (1) have remotely controlled pumps, or (2) are operated by a single cashier.

Sec. 49. Section 16a-15a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 specifying the manner in which retail dealers, as defined in section 14-318, shall notify customers of the location of self-service and full-service fuel pumps or any pumps at which discounts are offered for cash payment or credit cards are accepted. The regulations shall include provision for the direction of [handicapped drivers] motor vehicle operators with disabilities to the appropriate self-service pump as provided in section 14-325b, as amended by this act.

Sec. 50. Subsection (b) of section 16a-41 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) Any state agency which administers or funds an energy assistance program, an energy conservation loan, grant, audit, or service program or a renewable resources loan, grant or service program shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 for such program in order to protect the due process rights of the applicants. The regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the following, where applicable: (1) Procedures for applications and their disposition, including record-keeping; (2) procedures for the immediate provision of appropriate assistance to eligible applicants who are without or in imminent danger of being without heat, hot water or utilities; (3) standards of assistance, including eligibility and benefits; (4) procedures for assisting [elderly, handicapped, bilingual] persons who are elderly, persons with disabilities, bilingual persons

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and other persons who are unable to file such applications without assistance; (5) procedures for assisting applicants in obtaining other forms of assistance; (6) procedures for written notice to applicants of the disposition of their applications and the basis for each full or partial denial of assistance; and (7) administrative appeal procedures, including notice to applicants of the availability of such procedures.

Sec. 51. Subsection (a) of section 16-247e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) In order to ensure the universal availability of affordable, high quality telecommunications services to all residents and businesses throughout the state regardless of income, disability or location, the authority shall (1) periodically investigate and determine, after notice and hearing, local service options, including the definition and components of any basic telecommunications services, necessary to achieve universal service and meet customer needs; and (2) establish lifeline and telecommunications relay service programs funded by all telecommunications carriers that provide intrastate telecommunications services, as such terms are defined in 47 USC 153, as amended from time to time, sufficient to provide low-income households or individuals or speech and [hearing impaired individuals] persons who are hard of hearing with a level of telecommunications service or package of telecommunications services that supports participation in the economy and society of the state. The authority shall apportion the funding for the lifeline and telecommunications relay service programs among telecommunications carriers on an equitable basis based on the gross revenues of each telecommunications carrier that are generated in Connecticut, both interstate and intrastate. The lifeline and telecommunications relay service programs shall be administered by an entity authorized, and subject to oversight, by the authority. The

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authority shall determine by order which customers qualify for the lifeline program. Recipients of lifeline funds shall use such funds to pay for telecommunications services provided by any telecommunications carrier.

Sec. 52. Section 16-333c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

Each community antenna television company shall make available at cost, by a rental, sales or installment sales agreement, to each subscriber who is deaf or [hearing impaired] hard of hearing, equipment which receives and decodes closed captions which are simultaneously broadcast with video signals carried by the company.

Sec. 53. Subsection (a) of section 17a-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) The department shall plan, create, develop, operate or arrange for, administer and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated state-wide program of services, including preventive services, for children and youths whose behavior does not conform to the law or to acceptable community standards, or who are mentally ill, including deaf and [hearing impaired] hard of hearing children and youths who are mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, substance abusers, delinquent, abused, neglected or uncared for, including all children and youths who are or may be committed to it by any court, and all children and youths voluntarily admitted to, or remaining voluntarily under the supervision of, the commissioner for services of any kind. Services shall not be denied to any such child or youth solely because of other complicating or multiple disabilities. The department shall work in cooperation with other child-serving agencies and organizations to provide or arrange for preventive programs, including, but not limited to, teenage pregnancy and youth suicide prevention, for children and

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youths and their families. The program shall provide services and placements that are clinically indicated and appropriate to the needs of the child or youth, except that such services and placements shall not commence or continue for a delinquent child who has attained the age of twenty. In furtherance of this purpose, the department shall: (1) Maintain the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and other appropriate facilities exclusively for delinquents; (2) develop a comprehensive program for prevention of problems of children and youths and provide a flexible, innovative and effective program for the placement, care and treatment of children and youths committed by any court to the department, transferred to the department by other departments, or voluntarily admitted to the department; (3) provide appropriate services to families of children and youths as needed to achieve the purposes of sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, and 17a-51; (4) establish incentive paid work programs for children and youths under the care of the department and the rates to be paid such children and youths for work done in such programs and may provide allowances to children and youths in the custody of the department; (5) be responsible to collect, interpret and publish statistics relating to children and youths within the department; (6) conduct studies of any program, service or facility developed, operated, contracted for or supported by the department in order to evaluate its effectiveness; (7) establish staff development and other training and educational programs designed to improve the quality of departmental services and programs, which shall include, but not be limited to, training in the prevention, identification and effects of family violence, provided no social worker trainee shall be assigned a case load prior to completing training, and may establish educational or training programs for children, youths, parents or other interested persons on any matter related to the promotion of the well-being of children, or the prevention of mental illness, emotional disturbance, delinquency and other disabilities in children and youths; (8) develop and implement aftercare and follow-up services

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appropriate to the needs of any child or youth under the care of the department; (9) establish a case audit unit to monitor each regional office's compliance with regulations and procedures; (10) develop and maintain a database listing available community service programs funded by the department; (11) provide outreach and assistance to persons caring for children whose parents are unable to do so by informing such persons of programs and benefits for which they may be eligible; and (12) collect data sufficient to identify the housing needs of children served by the department and share such data with the Department of Housing.

Sec. 54. Section 17a-301a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) Effective January 1, 2013, there shall be established a Department on Aging that shall be under the direction and supervision of the Commissioner on Aging who shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, with the powers and duties prescribed in said sections. The commissioner shall be knowledgeable and experienced with respect to the conditions and needs of [elderly] older persons and shall serve on a full-time basis.

(b) The Commissioner on Aging shall administer all laws under the jurisdiction of the Department on Aging and shall employ the most efficient and practical means for the provision of care and protection of [elderly] older persons. The commissioner shall have the power and duty to do the following: (1) Administer, coordinate and direct the operation of the department; (2) adopt and enforce regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, as necessary to implement the purposes of the department as established by statute; (3) establish rules for the internal operation and administration of the department; (4) establish and develop programs and administer services to achieve the purposes of the department; (5) contract for facilities, services and programs to

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implement the purposes of the department; (6) act as advocate for necessary additional comprehensive and coordinated programs for [elderly] older persons; (7) assist and advise all appropriate state, federal, local and area planning agencies for [elderly] older persons in the performance of their functions and duties pursuant to federal law and regulation; (8) plan services and programs for [elderly] older persons; (9) coordinate outreach activities by public and private agencies serving [elderly] older persons; and (10) consult and cooperate with area and private planning agencies.

(c) The Department on Aging is designated as the State Unit on Aging to administer, manage, design and advocate for benefits, programs and services for [the elderly] older persons and their families pursuant to the Older Americans Act. The department shall study continuously the conditions and needs of [elderly] older persons in this state in relation to nutrition, transportation, home care, housing, income, employment, health, recreation and other matters. The department shall be responsible, in cooperation with federal, state, local and area planning agencies on aging, for the overall planning, development and administration of a comprehensive and integrated social service delivery system for [elderly] older persons. The department shall: (1) Measure the need for services; (2) survey methods of administration of programs for service delivery; (3) provide for periodic evaluations of social services; (4) maintain technical, information, consultation and referral services in cooperation with other state agencies to local and area public and private agencies to the fullest extent possible; (5) develop and coordinate educational outreach programs for the purposes of informing the public and [elderly] older persons of available programs; (6) cooperate in the development of performance standards for licensing of residential and medical facilities with appropriate state agencies; (7) supervise the establishment, in selected areas and local communities of the state, of pilot programs for [elderly] older persons;

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(8) coordinate with the Department of Transportation to provide adequate transportation services related to the needs of [elderly] older persons; and (9) cooperate with other state agencies to provide adequate and alternate housing for [elderly] older persons, including congregate housing, as defined in section 8-119e.

(d) The functions, powers, duties and personnel of the Division of Aging Services of the Department of Social Services, or any subsequent division or portion of a division with similar functions, powers, personnel and duties, shall be transferred to the Department on Aging pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

[(e) The Department of Social Services shall administer programs under the jurisdiction of the Department on Aging until the Commissioner on Aging is appointed and administrative staff are hired.

(f) The Governor may, with the approval of the Finance Advisory Committee, transfer funds between the Department of Social Services and the Department on Aging pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-87 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.]

[(g)] (e) Any order or regulation of the Department of Social Services or the former Commission on Aging that is in force on January 1, 2013, shall continue in force and effect as an order or regulation until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

Sec. 55. Subsection (a) of section 17a-302 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) The Department on Aging shall be responsible for the administration of programs which provide nutritionally sound diets to needy [elderly] older persons and for the expansion of such programs when possible. Such programs shall be continued in such a manner as

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to fully utilize congregate feeding and nutrition education of [elderly] older citizens who qualify for such program.

Sec. 56. Section 17a-303a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Department on Aging shall establish, within available appropriations, a fall prevention program. Within such program, the department shall:

(1) Promote and support research to: (A) Improve the identification, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of older [adults] persons and others who have a high risk of falling; (B) improve data collection and analysis to identify risk factors for falls and factors that reduce the likelihood of falls; (C) design, implement and evaluate the most effective fall prevention interventions; (D) improve intervention strategies that have been proven effective in reducing falls by tailoring such strategies to specific populations of older [adults] persons; (E) maximize the dissemination of proven, effective fall prevention interventions; (F) assess the risk of falls occurring in various settings; (G) identify barriers to the adoption of proven interventions with respect to the prevention of falls among older [adults] persons; (H) develop, implement and evaluate the most effective approaches to reducing falls among high-risk older [adults] persons living in communities and long-term care and assisted living facilities; and (I) evaluate the effectiveness of community programs designed to prevent falls among older [adults] persons;

(2) Establish, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, a professional education program in fall prevention, evaluation and management for physicians, allied health professionals and other health care providers who provide services for [the elderly] older persons in this state. The Commissioner on Aging may contract for the establishment of such program through (A) a request for proposal

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process, (B) a competitive grant program, or (C) cooperative agreements with qualified organizations, institutions or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions;

(3) Oversee and support demonstration and research projects to be carried out by organizations, institutions or consortia of organizations and institutions deemed qualified by the Commissioner on Aging. Such demonstration and research projects may be in the following areas:

(A) Targeted fall risk screening and referral programs;

(B) Programs designed for community-dwelling older [adults] persons that use fall intervention approaches, including physical activity, medication assessment and reduction of medication when possible, vision enhancement and home-modification strategies;

(C) Programs that target new fall victims who are at a high risk for second falls and that are designed to maximize independence and quality of life for older [adults] persons, particularly those older [adults] persons with functional limitations;

(D) Private sector and public-private partnerships to develop technologies to prevent falls among older [adults] persons and prevent or reduce injuries when falls occur; and

(4) Award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, organizations, institutions or consortia of organizations and institutions deemed qualified by the Commissioner on Aging to design, implement and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention strategies in residential and institutional settings.

Sec. 57. Section 17a-304 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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The state shall be divided into five elderly planning and service areas, in accordance with federal law and regulations, each having an area agency on aging to carry out the mandates of the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. The area agencies shall (1) represent [elderly] older persons within their geographic areas, (2) develop an area plan for approval by the Department on Aging and upon such approval administer the plan, (3) coordinate and assist local public and nonprofit, private agencies in the development of programs, (4) receive and distribute federal and state funds for such purposes, in accordance with applicable law, (5) carry out any additional duties and functions required by federal law and regulations.

Sec. 58. Section 17a-310 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Department on Aging may make a grant to any city, town or borough or public or private agency, organization or institution for the following purposes: (a) For community planning and coordination of programs carrying out the purposes of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended; (b) for demonstration programs or activities particularly valuable in carrying out such purposes; (c) for training of special personnel needed to carry out such programs and activities; (d) for establishment of new or expansion of existing programs to carry out such purposes, including establishment of new or expansion of existing centers of service for [elderly] older persons, providing recreational, cultural and other leisure time activities, and informational, transportation, referral and preretirement and postretirement counseling services for [elderly] older persons and assisting such persons in providing volunteer community or civic services, except that no costs of construction, other than for minor alterations and repairs, shall be included in such establishment or expansion; (e) for programs to develop or demonstrate approaches,

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methods and techniques for achieving or improving coordination of community services for [elderly] older or aging persons and such other programs and services as may be allowed under Title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, or to evaluate these approaches, techniques and methods, as well as others which may assist [elderly] older or aging persons to enjoy wholesome and meaningful living and to continue to contribute to the strength and welfare of the state and nation.

Sec. 59. Section 17a-712 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall establish a program to provide alcohol and drug abuse services to [deaf and hearing impaired] persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Said program shall provide a system of prevention, intervention, teaching and aftercare services in a manner which is most responsive to the needs of persons who are deaf [and hearing impaired persons] or hard of hearing.

Sec. 60. Section 17b-612 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall establish a program to assist [disabled] public school students with disabilities in preparing for and obtaining competitive employment and to strengthen the linkage between vocational rehabilitation services and public schools. Under the program, the Department of Rehabilitation Services shall provide, within the limits of available appropriations, vocational evaluations and other appropriate transitional services and shall provide vocational rehabilitation counselors to school districts throughout the state. The counselors shall, if requested, assist those persons planning in-school skill development programs. The counselors shall, with planning and placement team members, develop

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transition plans and individual education and work rehabilitation plans for [disabled] students with disabilities who will no longer be eligible for continued public school services. Students whose termination date for receipt of public school services is most immediate shall be given priority.

Sec. 61. Section 17b-613 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

As used in this section and sections [17b-613] 17b-614 to 17b-615, inclusive:

(1) "Center for independent living" means a consumer-controlled, community-based, nonprofit corporation which provides consumers or their families with independent living services, as identified by community residents with disabilities and service providers. A center shall provide program information to all community residents about the needs of people with disabilities. Personal care [attendant] assistant services arranged for or provided by independent living centers shall not be required to be licensed or certified;

(2) "Independent living services" shall include, but not be limited to, advocacy, peer counseling, independent living skills assessment, counseling and training information and referral, and other programs and services which would promote the independence, productivity and quality of life for people with disabilities;

(3) "Consumer" means an individual with a [severe] significant physical or mental impairment whose ability to function independently in the family or community or whose ability to obtain, maintain or advance in employment is substantially limited and for whom the delivery of independent living services will improve the ability to function, continue functioning, or move toward functioning independently in the family or community or to continue in

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employment, respectively;

(4) "Consumer-controlled" means that at least fifty-one per cent of the members of the board of directors of a center for independent living are consumers.

Sec. 62. Section 17b-650a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) There is created a Department of Rehabilitation Services. The Department of Social Services shall provide administrative support services to the Department of Rehabilitation Services until the Department of Rehabilitation Services requests cessation of such services, or until June 30, 2013, whichever is earlier. The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall be responsible for providing the following: (1) Services to [the deaf and hearing impaired] persons who are deaf or hard of hearing; (2) services for [the blind and] persons who are blind or visually impaired; and (3) rehabilitation services in accordance with the provisions of the general statutes concerning the Department of Rehabilitation Services. The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall constitute a successor authority to the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

(b) The department head shall be the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, who shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, and shall have the powers and duties described in said sections. The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall appoint such persons as may be necessary to administer the provisions of public act 11-44 and the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall fix the compensation of such persons in accordance with the provisions of section 4-40. The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may create such sections within the Department of Rehabilitation Services as will

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facilitate such administration, including a disability determinations section for which one hundred per cent federal funds may be accepted for the operation of such section in conformity with applicable state and federal regulations. The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the purposes of the department as established by statute.

(c) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall, annually, in accordance with section 4-60, submit to the Governor a report in electronic format on the activities of the Department of Rehabilitation Services relating to services provided by the department to [individuals who (1) are blind or visually impaired, (2) are deaf or hearing impaired, or (3) receive vocational rehabilitation services] persons with disabilities. The report shall include the data the department provides to the federal government that relates to the evaluation standards and performance indicators for the vocational rehabilitation services program. The commissioner shall submit the report in electronic format, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

(d) Effective July 1, 2017, the Department of Rehabilitation Services shall constitute a successor department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d and 4-39, to the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities with respect to investigations of allegations of abuse or neglect pursuant to sections 46a-11a to 46a-11f, inclusive.

Sec. 63. Section 17b-650e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Department of Rehabilitation Services may provide necessary

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services to [deaf and hearing impaired] persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, including, but not limited to, nonreimbursable interpreter services and message relay services for persons using telecommunication devices for [the] persons who are deaf.

Sec. 64. Subsection (b) of section 17b-655 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) Subject to the approval of all real estate acquisitions by the Commissioner of Administrative Services and the State Properties Review Board, in carrying out said sections, the Department of Rehabilitation Services may (1) establish, operate, foster and promote the establishment of rehabilitation facilities and make grants to public and other nonprofit and nonsectarian organizations for such purposes; (2) assist persons with [severe] significant disabilities to establish and operate small businesses; and (3) make studies, investigations, demonstrations and reports, and provide training and instruction, including the establishment and maintenance of such research fellowships and traineeships with such stipends and allowances as may be deemed necessary, in matters relating to vocational rehabilitation.

Sec. 65. Section 17b-894 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) Representatives of community action agencies shall be recognized as knowledgeable on issues affecting [low income, elderly and handicapped citizens] persons of low incomes, persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities for the purposes of sharing information with governmental bodies considering such issues.

(b) All community action agencies, other agencies, contractors and boards thereof included in the provisions of sections 17b-885 to 17b-

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895, inclusive, shall comply with federal, state and local civil rights laws.

Sec. 66. Subsection (a) of section 19a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) The commissioner shall be responsible for planning state-wide programs for the control and treatment of lung diseases; the treatment of persons affected with other chronic illness, and the medical rehabilitation of persons who are chronically ill [, physically disabled and handicapped persons] and persons with disabilities. The commissioner may provide and maintain facilities and personnel for the diagnosis or detection and treatment of such diseases or enter into contracts for the provision of diagnostic and treatment programs for such diseases with persons or organizations capable in the commissioner's judgment of providing such services.

Sec. 67. Subparagraph (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 19a-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(E) Special purpose public pool, which is a pool used for a specialized purpose, including, but not limited to, a splash pad or spray park where the water is recirculated, water flume, pool used for scuba diving instruction, therapeutic pool, hydrotherapy pool or a pool used in an aquatics program for [handicapped] persons with disabilities. Special purpose public pool does not include a flotation vessel, which shall not be subject to review by the Department of Public Health. For purposes of this subparagraph, "flotation vessel" means a tank devoid of light and sound and containing salt water in which a person floats for purposes including, but not limited to, meditation, relaxation and alternative medicine.

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Sec. 68. Section 19a-54 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

Each institution supported in whole or in part by the state shall report to the Department of Public Health, on a form prescribed by said department, the name and address of each child under twenty-one years of age [who is physically handicapped] with special health care needs for whom an application is made for admission, whether such child is admitted or rejected.

Sec. 69. Subsection (b) of section 19a-59 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) The Department of Public Health shall establish a plan to implement and operate a program of early identification of infant hearing impairment. The purpose of such plan shall be to: (1) Identify infants at high risk of having hearing impairments; (2) notify parents of such infants of the risk; (3) inform parents of resources available to them for further testing and treatment, including rehabilitation services for such infants; and (4) inform parents of financial assistance available through the Department of Public Health, including, but not limited to, parental eligibility criteria, which may result in reduced cost or no cost to parents for testing, evaluation or treatment, including rehabilitation of such infants. The department shall develop such plan in consultation with persons including, but not limited to, pediatricians, otolaryngologists, audiologists, educators and parents of children who are deaf and [hearing impaired children] hard of hearing.

Sec. 70. Subdivision (2) of section 19a-175 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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(2) "Patient" means an injured [, ill or physically handicapped person] or ill person or a person with a physical disability requiring assistance and transportation;

Sec. 71. Subsection (a) of section 19a-490 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) "Institution" means a hospital, short-term hospital special hospice, hospice inpatient facility, residential care home, [health care facility for the handicapped,] nursing home facility, home health care agency, homemaker-home health aide agency, behavioral health facility, assisted living services agency, substance abuse treatment facility, outpatient surgical facility, outpatient clinic, an infirmary operated by an educational institution for the care of students enrolled in, and faculty and employees of, such institution; a facility engaged in providing services for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment or care of human health conditions, including facilities operated and maintained by any state agency, except facilities for the care or treatment of mentally ill persons or persons with substance abuse problems; and a residential facility for persons with intellectual disability licensed pursuant to section 17a-227 and certified to participate in the Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disability;

Sec. 72. Section 19a-701 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

A managed residential community shall meet the requirements of all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Public Health Code, State Building Code and the Fire Safety Code, and federal and state laws and regulations governing [handicapped] accessibility for persons with disabilities.

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Sec. 73. Section 19a-52 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the Department of Public Health or the department's contractor, in carrying out its powers and duties under section 19a-50, may, within the limits of appropriations, purchase [wheelchairs and placement equipment directly and without the issuance of a purchase order, provided such purchases shall not be in excess of six thousand five hundred dollars per unit purchased. All such purchases shall be made in the open market, but shall, when possible, be based on at least three competitive bids. Such bids shall be solicited by sending notice to prospective suppliers and by posting notice on a public bulletin board within said Department of Public Health. Each bid shall be opened publicly at the time stated in the notice soliciting such bid. Acceptance of a bid by said Department of Public Health shall be based on standard specifications as may be adopted by said department] medically necessary and appropriate durable medical equipment and other department approved goods and services. Such goods and services shall be identical to goods and services that are covered under the Connecticut Medicaid and HUSKY Programs and the payment for such goods and services shall not exceed the Connecticut Medicaid payment rate for the same goods and services.

Sec. 74. Subsection (b) of section 19a-59 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) The Department of Public Health shall establish a plan to implement and operate a program of early identification of [infant hearing impairment] infants who are hard of hearing. The purpose of such plan shall be to: (1) Identify infants at high risk of having hearing impairments; (2) notify parents of such infants of the risk; (3) inform parents of resources available to them for further testing and

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treatment, including rehabilitation services for such infants; and (4) inform parents of financial assistance available through the Department of Public Health, including, but not limited to, parental eligibility criteria, which may result in reduced cost or no cost to parents for testing, evaluation or treatment, including rehabilitation of such infants. The department shall develop such plan in consultation with persons including, but not limited to, pediatricians, otolaryngologists, audiologists, educators and parents of [deaf and hearing impaired] children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Sec. 75. Section 20-74a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Occupational therapy" means the evaluation, planning and implementation of a program of purposeful activities to develop or maintain adaptive skills necessary to achieve the maximal physical and mental functioning of the individual in his or her daily pursuits. The practice of "occupational therapy" includes, but is not limited to, evaluation and treatment of individuals whose abilities to cope with the tasks of living are threatened or impaired by developmental [deficits] disabilities, the aging process, learning disabilities, poverty and cultural differences, physical injury or disease, psychological and social disabilities, or anticipated [disfunction] dysfunction, using (A) such treatment techniques as task-oriented activities to prevent or correct physical or emotional [deficits] disabilities or to minimize the disabling effect of these [deficits] disabilities in the life of the individual, (B) such evaluation techniques as assessment of sensory motor abilities, assessment of the development of self-care activities and capacity for independence, assessment of the physical capacity for prevocational and work tasks, assessment of play and leisure performance, and appraisal of living areas for [the handicapped] persons with disabilities, (C) specific occupational therapy techniques

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such as activities of daily living skills, the fabrication and application of splinting devices, sensory motor activities, the use of specifically designed manual and creative activities, guidance in the selection and use of adaptive equipment, specific exercises to enhance functional performance and treatment techniques for physical capabilities for work activities. Such techniques are applied in the treatment of individual patients or clients, in groups or through social systems. Occupational therapy also includes the establishment and modification of peer review.

(2) "Occupational therapist" means a person licensed to practice occupational therapy as defined in this chapter and whose license is in good standing.

(3) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy, under the supervision of or with the consultation of a licensed occupational therapist, and whose license is in good standing.

(4) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health or the commissioner's designee.

(5) "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

(6) "Supervision" means the overseeing of or participation in the work of an occupational therapy assistant by a licensed occupational therapist, including, but not limited to: (A) Continuous availability of direct communication between the occupational therapy assistant and the licensed occupational therapist; (B) availability of the licensed occupational therapist on a regularly scheduled basis to (i) review the practice of the occupational therapy assistant, and (ii) support the occupational therapy assistant in the performance of the occupational therapy assistant's services; and (C) a predetermined plan for emergency situations, including the designation of an alternate

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licensed occupational therapist to oversee or participate in the work of the occupational therapy assistant in the absence of the regular licensed occupational therapist.

Sec. 76. Subsection (h) of section 25-68d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(h) The provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, and (f) and (g) of this section shall not apply to the following critical activities above the one-hundred-year flood elevation that involve state funded housing reconstruction, rehabilitation or renovation, provided the state agency that provides funding for such activity certifies that it complies with the provisions of the National Flood Insurance Program and the requirements of this subsection: (1) Projects involving the renovation or rehabilitation of existing housing on the Department of Housing's most recent affordable housing appeals list; (2) construction of minor structures to an existing building for the purpose of providing [handicapped] accessibility to persons with disabilities pursuant to the State Building Code; (3) construction of open decks attached to residential structures, properly anchored in accordance with the State Building Code; (4) the demolition and reconstruction of existing housing for persons and families of low and moderate income, provided there is no increase in the number of dwelling units and (A) such reconstruction is limited to the footprint of the existing foundation of the building or buildings used for such purpose, or which could be used for such purpose subsequent to reconstruction, or (B) such reconstruction is on a parcel of land where the elevation of such land is above the one-hundred-year flood elevation, provided there is no placement of fill within an adopted Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone.

Sec. 77. Section 26-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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No fee shall be charged for any sport fishing license issued under this chapter to any [blind] person who is blind, and such license shall be a lifetime license not subject to the expiration provisions of section 26-35. Proof of such blindness shall be furnished, in the case of a veteran, by the United States Veterans' Administration and, in the case of any other person, by the Department of Rehabilitation Services. For the purpose of this section, a person shall be blind only if his or her central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses, or if his or her visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees.

Sec. 78. Section 26-29b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

No fee shall be charged for any hunting, sport fishing or trapping license issued under this chapter to any [physically disabled] person with physical disability, and such license shall be a lifetime license not subject to the expiration provisions of section 26-35. For the purposes of this section, a ["physically disabled person"] "person with physical disability" is any person whose disability consists of the loss of one or more limbs or the permanent loss of the use of one or more limbs. A [physically disabled] person with physical disability shall submit to the commissioner a certification, signed by a licensed physician or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, of such physical disability. No fee shall be charged for any hunting or sport fishing license issued under this chapter to any [physically disabled] person with physical disability who is not a resident of this state if such person is a resident of a state in which a [physically disabled] person with physical disability from Connecticut will not be required to pay a fee for a hunting or sport fishing license, and such license shall be a lifetime license not subject to the expiration provisions of section 26-35.

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Sec. 79. Section 26-66 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 governing the taking of wildlife, provided any regulations concerning the taking of migratory game birds shall be consistent with section 26-91. The regulations may: (1) Establish the open and closed seasons, which may be modified by decreasing or increasing the number of days for any specific species, (2) establish hours, days or periods during the open season when hunting shall not be permitted for specific species, (3) establish legal hours, (4) prescribe the legal methods, including type, kind, gauge and caliber of weapons and ammunition, including long bow, (5) prescribe the sex of wildlife that may be taken on a state-wide or local area basis, (6) establish the daily bag limit and the season bag limit, (7) establish the maximum number of persons that may hunt on designated areas during any twenty-four-hour period, (8) require that a permit be obtained from the landowner or [his] such landowner's agent, or the commissioner or [his] such commissioner's agent, to enter upon designated premises or areas for the purpose of hunting, and further require that such permit be returned within a specified time to the issuing authority with an accurate report of all wildlife taken under such permit, the time spent on the premises or area and any other data required by the commissioner for management purposes, (9) establish areas that shall be restricted for designated periods for hunting only with long bow or other specified weapons, (10) establish areas that shall be restricted for designated periods for hunting exclusively by [the physically handicapped] persons with physical disabilities, (11) establish requirements and procedures for tagging and reporting birds or animals taken by hunting or trapping; and, in the interest of public safety and for the purpose of preventing unreasonable conduct and abuses by hunters, and to provide reasonable control of the actions and behavior of such persons, said commissioner may issue regulations

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and orders to (12) prohibit the carrying of loaded firearms and hunting within specified distances of buildings, (13) prohibit the discharge of firearms and other hunting devices within specified distances of buildings and, when within specified distances, the discharge of such firearms and devices toward persons, buildings and livestock, (14) prohibit hunting while on any road adjacent to any state park, state forest, premises used for the breeding, rearing or holding in captivity of wildlife or premises used for zoological purposes, (15) establish minimum distances between fixed positions, floating and drift blinds for waterfowl hunting, (16) prohibit crossing over lawns and lands under cultivation, (17) prohibit damage to property, livestock and agricultural crops, (18) prohibit, during specified periods on designated areas, the training, exercising and running of dogs under control or uncontrolled, (19) prohibit the operation and parking of vehicles on designated portions of public and private roads, parking areas, lanes, passageways, rights-of-way, fields and lots, (20) prohibit the discarding of bottles, glass, cans, paper, junk, litter and trash, (21) control the launching, anchoring, mooring, storage and abandonment of boats, trailers and related equipment on properties under the control of the commissioner, (22) specify (A) the persons who shall wear fluorescent orange clothing, (B) the time periods during which such clothing shall be worn and (C) the types and amounts of such clothing which shall be worn, on and after January 1, 1989, when hunting.

Sec. 80. Section 26-112 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The commissioner may, after notice and public hearing, issue regulations governing fishing for all species of fish and the taking of all bait species in the inland district, which regulations may: (1) Establish the open and closed seasons, which may be modified by decreasing or increasing the number of days on any specific species, (2) establish

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hours, days or periods during the open season when fishing shall not be permitted in designated waters for all or limited species, (3) prescribe the legal methods of taking, (4) establish the legal length, (5) establish the daily creel limit, the season creel limit and the possession limit, (6) restrict or prohibit wading in streams or portions thereof, fishing from boats, canoes, rafts and other floating devices and fishing from designated land areas, (7) establish the maximum number of persons, boats, canoes and other floating devices that may use any area of water for fishing, (8) require that a permit be obtained from the landowner or his agent, or from the commissioner or an agent of the department, to enter upon designated premises or areas for the purpose of fishing, and further require that such permit be returned within a specified time to the issuing authority with an accurate report of all fish taken under such permit, time spent on the area and any other data required by the commissioner for management purposes, (9) restrict or prohibit the use of any craft other than manually propelled, (10) designate areas of land and water that shall be restricted for the exclusive use of children or [the physically handicapped] persons with physical disabilities. For the purpose of protecting public and private interests and preventing unreasonable conduct and abuses by fishermen, and to provide reasonable control of the actions and behavior of such persons, said commissioner may issue regulations and orders to (11) provide that entrance to and exit from streams, lakes and ponds shall be restricted to rights-of-way designated by posters or that consent shall be obtained from the landowner or his agent, (12) establish reasonable distances from the banks of streams, lakes and ponds beyond which fishermen shall not trespass, (13) prohibit crossing over lawns and lands under cultivation, (14) prohibit damage to property, livestock and agricultural crops, (15) prohibit swimming and picnicking in designated areas, (16) prohibit the operation or parking of vehicles on designated portions of public and private roads, parking areas, lanes, passageways, rights-of-way, fields and lots, (17) prohibit the discarding of bottles, glass, cans,

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paper, junk, litter and trash, (18) control the launching, anchoring, mooring, storage and abandonment of boats, trailers and related equipment on properties under the control of the commissioner.

Sec. 81. Section 31-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) [None of the following persons under the conditions hereinafter described shall be employed in any manufacturing or mechanical establishment more than nine hours in any day or forty-eight hours in any calendar week: (1) Persons] No person under the age of eighteen years who [are] is not enrolled in and [have] has not graduated from a secondary educational institution [; (2) persons sixty-six years of age or older, except with their consent; (3) handicapped persons, so designated by medical or governmental authority, except with their consent and after certification by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse that the extended hours of work will not be injurious to their health; (4) disabled veterans, as defined under state or federal law, except with their consent and after certification by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse that the extended hours of work will not be injurious to their health] shall be employed in any manufacturing or mechanical establishment more than nine hours in any day or forty-eight hours in any calendar week.

(b) If the Labor Commissioner finds, upon application of an employer, that an emergency exists or that seasonal or peak demand places an unusual and temporary burden upon any manufacturing or mechanical establishment, any such person under the age of eighteen may be employed in such establishment not more than ten hours in any day and not more than fifty-five hours in any calendar week, but the total number of weeks of any such employment in any twelve consecutive months shall not exceed twelve.

(c) With respect to any group, category or class of employees for

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which a work week of less than five days has been established or agreed upon, the employer shall adhere to the applicable weekly limitation period prescribed but may extend the number of hours per day for each day of the shortened work week provided the number of hours shall be the same for each day of the work week.

(d) In the event of war or other national emergency, the commissioner after investigation may, with the approval of the Governor, extend the number of weeks of any such employment if such extension is necessary to meet scheduled production of war or critical material.

(e) No person under eighteen years of age who is enrolled in a secondary education institution shall be employed in any manufacturing or mechanical establishment more than (1) six hours in any regularly scheduled school day unless the regularly scheduled school day immediately precedes a nonschool day or eight hours in any other day, and (2) thirty-two hours in any calendar week during which the school in which such person is enrolled is in session, or forty-eight hours in any calendar week during which the school in which such person is enrolled is not in session. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the number of hours such person participates in a work experience that is part of an approved educational plan, cooperative program or school-to-work program shall not be counted against the daily or weekly limits set forth in this section.

(f) The provisions of this section shall not apply to permanent salaried employees in executive, administrative or professional positions as defined by the Labor Commissioner, or to persons under eighteen years of age who have graduated from a secondary educational institution.

Sec. 82. Section 31-13 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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(a) [None of the following persons under the conditions hereinafter described shall be employed in any mercantile establishment more than eight hours in any one day, or more than six days in any one calendar week or more than forty-eight hours in any one calendar week: (1) Persons] No person under the age of eighteen years who [are] is not enrolled in and [have] has not graduated from a secondary educational institution [; (2) persons sixty-six years of age or older, except with their consent; (3) handicapped persons, so designated by medical or governmental authority, except with their consent and after certification by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse that the extended hours of work will not be injurious to their health; (4) disabled veterans, as defined under state or federal law, except with their consent and after certification by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse that the extended hours of work will not be injurious to their health; but any such person may be permitted to work in any such establishment one day in any calendar week for not more than ten hours, for the purpose of making one shorter day during such week, and any employer who, during any year, gives not fewer than seven holidays with pay shall be exempt from the foregoing provisions hereof during the period from the eighteenth to the twenty-fifth day of December of such year] shall be employed in any mercantile establishment more than eight hours in any one day, or more than six days in any one calendar week or more than forty-eight hours in any one calendar week.

(b) If the Labor Commissioner finds, upon application of an employer, that an emergency exists or that seasonal or peak demand places an unusual and temporary burden upon any mercantile establishment, any such person under the age of eighteen years may be employed in such establishment not more than ten hours in any day and not more than fifty-two hours in any calendar week, but the total number of weeks of any such employment in any twelve months shall not exceed eight.

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(c) No person under eighteen years of age who is enrolled in a secondary education institution shall be employed in any mercantile establishment more than (1) six hours in any regularly scheduled school day unless the regularly scheduled school day immediately precedes a nonschool day or eight hours in any other day, and (2) thirty-two hours in any calendar week during which the school in which such person is enrolled is in session, or forty-eight hours in any other calendar week during which the school in which such person is enrolled is not in session. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the number of hours such person participates in a work experience that is part of an approved educational plan, cooperative program or school-to-work program shall not be counted against the daily or weekly limits set forth in this section.

(d) Each employer in any such establishment shall post in a conspicuous place in each room where such persons are employed a notice, the form of which shall be furnished by the Labor Commissioner, stating specifically the hours of work required of such persons on each day of the week, and the employment of any such persons for a longer time than so stated shall be a violation of this section.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to permanent salaried employees in executive, managerial or supervisory positions excepted from the provisions of part I of chapter 558 who receive a regular salary of not less than the minimum fixed for such employment in any wage order or administrative regulation issued under authority of said part, or to persons under eighteen years of age who have graduated from a secondary educational institution.

Sec. 83. Section 31-18 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) No public restaurant, cafe, dining room, barber shop,

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hairdressing or manicuring establishment, amusement or recreational establishment, bowling alley, shoe-shining establishment, billiard or pool room or photograph gallery shall employ or permit to work any person under eighteen years of age (1) between the hours of ten o'clock in the evening and six o'clock in the morning, [or any of the persons described below under conditions herein set forth more than nine hours in any day: (A) Persons sixty-six years of age or older, except with their consent; (B) handicapped persons, so designated by medical or governmental authority, except with their consent and after certification by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse that the extended hours of work will not be injurious to their health; (C) disabled veterans, as defined under state or federal law, except with their consent and after certification by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse that the extended hours of work will not be injurious to their health; provided any such person may be permitted to work in any such establishment one day in a week for not more than ten hours on such day, but not more than six days or forty-eight hours in any one week, and provided further, persons] provided any person between sixteen and eighteen years of age may be employed in any amusement or recreational establishment, restaurant, cafe or dining room, or employed in any theater until twelve o'clock midnight unless such [persons are] person is regularly attending school in which case such [minors] person may be employed until eleven o'clock in the evening on days which precede a regularly scheduled school day and until twelve o'clock midnight during any regular school vacation season and on days which do not precede a regularly scheduled school day, and (2) more than (A) six hours in any regularly scheduled school day unless the regularly scheduled school day immediately precedes a nonschool day or eight hours in any other day, and (B) thirty-two hours in any calendar week during which the school in which such person is enrolled is in session or forty-eight hours in any other calendar week during which the school in which such person is enrolled is not in session. Notwithstanding any provision of this

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section, the number of hours such person participates in a work experience that is part of an approved educational plan, cooperative program or school-to-work program shall not be counted against the daily or weekly limits set forth in this section.

(b) The hours of labor of such persons shall be conspicuously posted in such establishment in such form and manner as the Labor Commissioner determines.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person under eighteen years of age who has graduated from a secondary educational institution.

Sec. 84. Section 31-136 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Labor Commissioner shall carry on a continuing program to promote the employment of [handicapped] persons with disabilities by creating state-wide interest in the rehabilitation and employment of [the handicapped] persons with disabilities and by obtaining and maintaining cooperation from all public and private groups in this field. [The commissioner shall work in cooperation with the President's Commission on Employment of the Handicapped in order to more effectively carry out the purposes of this chapter.]

Sec. 85. Section 31-138 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

The Governor shall [designate the first full week in] proclaim the month of October of each year [as "National Employ the Handicapped Week"] to be Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Sec. 86. Subsection (a) of section 31-283a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

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(a) The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall provide rehabilitation programs for employees [suffering] with compensable injuries within the provisions of this chapter, which injuries [disabled them] prevented such employees from performing their customary or most recent work. The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall establish rehabilitation programs which shall best suit the needs of [injured] such employees and shall make the programs available in convenient locations throughout the state. After consultation with the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services may establish fees for the programs, so as to provide the most effective rehabilitation programs at a minimum rate. In order to carry out the provisions of this section, the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, and, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, provide for the employment of necessary assistants.

Sec. 87. Subdivision (2) of subsection (m) of section 38a-465g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(2) The owner submits independent evidence to the provider that one or more of the following conditions have been met within said two-year period: (A) The owner or insured is terminally ill or chronically ill; (B) the owner or insured disposes of the owner or insured's ownership interests in a closely held corporation, pursuant to the terms of a buyout or other similar agreement in effect at the time the insurance policy was initially issued; (C) the owner's spouse dies; (D) the owner divorces his or her spouse; (E) the owner retires from full-time employment; (F) the owner [becomes physically or mentally disabled] has a physical or mental disability and a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse determines that the disability prevents the owner from maintaining full-time employment; or (G) a final order, judgment or decree is entered by a court of competent

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jurisdiction on the application of a creditor of the owner, adjudicating the owner bankrupt or insolvent, or approving a petition seeking reorganization of the owner or appointing a receiver, trustee or liquidator to all or a substantial part of the owner's assets.

Sec. 88. Subsection (b) of section 38a-493 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) For the purposes of this section, "hospital" means an institution that is primarily engaged in providing, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients (1) diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment and care of [injured, disabled or sick] persons who have an injury, sickness or disability, or (2) medical rehabilitation services for the rehabilitation of [injured, disabled or sick] persons who have an injury, sickness or disability, provided "hospital" shall not include a residential care home, nursing home, rest home or alcohol or drug treatment facility, as defined in section 19a-490, as amended by this act. For the purposes of this section and section 38a-494, "home health care" means the continued care and treatment of a covered person who is under the care of a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse but only if (A) continued hospitalization would otherwise have been required if home health care was not provided, except in the case of a covered person diagnosed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse as terminally ill with a prognosis of six months or less to live, and (B) the plan covering the home health care is established and approved in writing by such physician or advanced practice registered nurse within seven days following termination of a hospital confinement as a resident inpatient for the same or a related condition for which the covered person was hospitalized, except that in the case of a covered person diagnosed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse as terminally ill with a prognosis of six months or less to live,

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such plan may be so established and approved at any time irrespective of whether such covered person was so confined or, if such covered person was so confined, irrespective of such seven-day period, and (C) such home health care is commenced within seven days following discharge, except in the case of a covered person diagnosed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse as terminally ill with a prognosis of six months or less to live.

Sec. 89. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 38a-496 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(3) "Rehabilitative agency" means an agency which provides an integrated multitreatment program designed to upgrade the function of [handicapped disabled individuals] persons with physical disabilities by bringing together, as a team, specialized personnel from various allied health fields.

Sec. 90. Subsection (b) of section 38a-520 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) For the purposes of this section, "hospital" means an institution which is primarily engaged in providing, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients (1) diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment and care of [injured, disabled or sick] persons who have an injury, sickness or disability, or (2) medical rehabilitation services for the rehabilitation of [injured, disabled or sick] persons who have an injury, sickness or disability, provided "hospital" shall not include a residential care home, nursing home, rest home or alcohol or drug treatment facility, as defined in section 19a-490, as amended by this act. For the purposes of this section and section 38a-494, "home health care" means the continued care and treatment of a covered person who is under the care of a

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physician or an advanced practice registered nurse but only if (A) continued hospitalization would otherwise have been required if home health care was not provided, except in the case of a covered person diagnosed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse as terminally ill with a prognosis of six months or less to live, and (B) the plan covering the home health care is established and approved in writing by such physician or advanced practice registered nurse within seven days following termination of a hospital confinement as a resident inpatient for the same or a related condition for which the covered person was hospitalized, except that in the case of a covered person diagnosed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse as terminally ill with a prognosis of six months or less to live, such plan may be so established and approved at any time irrespective of whether such covered person was so confined or, if such covered person was so confined, irrespective of such seven-day period, and (C) such home health care is commenced within seven days following discharge, except in the case of a covered person diagnosed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse as terminally ill with a prognosis of six months or less to live.

Sec. 91. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 38a-523 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(2) "Comprehensive rehabilitation facility" means a facility that is: (A) Primarily engaged in providing diagnostic, therapeutic and restorative services through such licensed health care professionals to [injured, ill or disabled individuals] persons who have an injury, sickness or disability solely on an outpatient basis and (B) accredited for the provision of such services by the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities or the Professional Services Board of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

Sec. 92. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 38a-524 of the

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general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(3) "Rehabilitative agency" means an agency which provides an integrated multitreatment program designed to upgrade the function of [handicapped disabled individuals] persons with physical disabilities by bringing together, as a team, specialized personnel from various allied health fields.

Sec. 93. Subdivision (1) of section 42-330 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(1) "Assistive technology device" means any device sold, leased or transferred in this state or to a consumer in this state on or after January 1, 1998, that is used or designed to be used to enable or enhance the ability of a person with a disability to communicate, see, hear or achieve mobility, including, but not limited to, (A) manual or motor-driven wheelchairs and other assistive devices that enhance a mobility impaired person's ability to achieve mobility, including seating and positioning aids, (B) telephone communication devices for [the hearing impaired] persons who are hard of hearing and other assistive listening devices that enhance [a hearing impaired person's] the ability of a person who is hard of hearing to hear or communicate, but not including hearing aids, (C) voice synthesized computer modules, optical scanners, talking software, braille printers and other assistive devices that enhance a sight impaired person's ability to see or communicate, (D) computer equipment with voice output, artificial larynges, voice amplification devices and other alternative and augmentative communication devices, (E) any system of such devices that, as a whole, is itself such a device, (F) any component product of such devices that is itself ordinarily such a device, and (G) any such device used primarily by a dealer, lessor or manufacturer for the purpose of demonstration to the public or to prospective purchasers or

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lessees. "Assistive technology device" does not include batteries used in or nonessential accessories to any such devices.

Sec. 94. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 46a-33a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(1) "Interpreting" means the translating or transliterating of English concepts to a language concept used by a person who is deaf or hard of hearing or means the translating of a [deaf or hard of hearing person's] language concept of a person who is deaf or hard of hearing to English concepts. Language concepts include, but are not limited to, the use of American Sign Language, English-based sign language, cued speech, oral transliterating and information received tactually;

Sec. 95. Subsection (b) of section 14-96p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) Except as provided in section 14-96q, flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles, except: (1) Red and yellow lights when used for the purpose of receiving or discharging students on school buses; (2) white lights that are located on the top rear of school buses; (3) when such lights are used as a means for indicating a right or left turn; or (4) when such lights are used in any manner to indicate (A) a disabled vehicle that is stopped in a hazardous location on the highway, or in close proximity thereto, (B) a motor vehicle that is unable to maintain the minimum speed of forty miles per hour on a limited access divided highway because of the grade of such highway, (C) a motor vehicle that is operating at such slow speed as to obstruct or endanger following traffic on any highway, or (D) a student transportation vehicle, as defined in section 14-212, accommodating fifteen or fewer students with disabilities that is receiving or discharging such students. For the purpose of this subsection, the term

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"students with disabilities" means students who have intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, mental disability, visual impairment, blindness, [hearing impairment,] deafness, speech impairment [,] or orthopedic impairment, who are hard of hearing or who have another health impairment who, by reason thereof, require special education and related services.

Sec. 96. Subdivision (15) of section 46a-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(15) "Physically disabled" refers to any individual who has any chronic physical handicap, infirmity or impairment, whether congenital or resulting from bodily injury, organic processes or changes or from illness, including, but not limited to, epilepsy, deafness or [hearing impairment] being hard of hearing or reliance on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;

Sec. 97. Subsection (a) of section 51-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(a) All jurors shall be electors, or citizens of the United States who are residents of this state having a permanent place of abode in this state and appear on the list compiled by the Jury Administrator under subsection (b) of section 51-222a, who have reached the age of eighteen. A person shall be disqualified to serve as a juror if such person: (1) Is found by a judge of the Superior Court to exhibit any quality which will impair the capacity of such person to serve as a juror, except that no person shall be disqualified [on the basis of deafness or hearing impairment] because the person is deaf or hard of hearing; (2) has been convicted of a felony within the past seven years or is a defendant in a pending felony case or is in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction; (3) is not able to speak and understand

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the English language; (4) is the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or Attorney General; (5) is a judge of the Probate Court, Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court, is a family support magistrate or is a federal court judge; (6) is a member of the General Assembly, provided such disqualification shall apply only while the General Assembly is in session; (7) is a registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters of a municipality, provided such disqualification shall apply only during the period from twenty-one days before the date of a federal, state or municipal election, primary or referendum to twenty-one days after the date of such election, primary or referendum, inclusive; (8) is seventy years of age or older and chooses not to perform juror service; or (9) is incapable, by reason of a physical or mental disability, of rendering satisfactory juror service. Any person claiming a disqualification under subdivision (9) of this subsection must submit to the Jury Administrator a letter from a licensed health care provider stating the health care provider's opinion that such disability prevents the person from rendering satisfactory juror service. In reaching such opinion, the health care provider shall apply the following guideline: A person shall be capable of rendering satisfactory juror service if such person is able to perform a sedentary job requiring close attention for six hours per day, with short work breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions, for at least three consecutive business days.

Sec. 98. Subsection (d) of section 51-245 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, if any juror is deaf or [hearing impaired] hard of, such juror shall have the assistance of a qualified interpreter who shall be present throughout the proceeding and when the jury assembles for deliberation. Such interpreter shall be provided by the Department of

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Rehabilitation Services at the request of the juror or the court. Such interpreter shall be subject to rules adopted pursuant to section 51-245a.

Sec. 99. Section 51-245a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

In accordance with the provisions of section 51-14, the judges of the Superior Court shall make such rules as they deem necessary concerning the qualification of interpreters to assist jurors who are deaf or [hearing impaired] hard of hearing pursuant to subsection (d) of section 51-245. Such rules shall ensure that such interpreters are unbiased and will not unduly influence the jury.

Sec. 100. Section 52-146m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

Any communication made by or to a person who is deaf or [hearing impaired person] hard of hearing with the assistance of a person operating special telecommunications equipment capable of serving the needs of persons who are deaf or [hearing impaired persons] hard of hearing shall be deemed to be confidential and privileged and shall not be disclosed by such operator in any civil or criminal case or proceeding or in any legislative or administrative proceeding, unless the person making the confidential communication waives such privilege.

Sec. 101. Subdivision (5) of section 53a-181i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(5) "Physical disability" means any chronic physical handicap, infirmity or impairment, whether congenital or resulting from bodily injury, organic processes or changes or from illness, including, but not limited to, blindness, epilepsy, deafness or [hearing impairment] being

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hard of hearing or reliance on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device.

Sec. 102. Subsection (b) of section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

(b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil identified as deaf or [hearing impaired] hard of hearing may request in writing that such pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

Approved July 10, 2017